



Early Learning Connection (ELC), Nebraska's early childhood professional development system, extends supports to individuals and programs who commit to professionalism, life-long learning, and to quality improvements that result in positive child and family outcomes. This system is facilitated through Nebraska Department of Education's Early Childhood Training Center in coordination with the regional Early Learning Connection partnerships, formerly known as Early Childhood Professional Development Partnerships and Regional Training Coalitions. Other vital partners include those with an adult education and learning mission. *The Nebraska Early Learning Connection* offers a wide array of professional and career development opportunities to those who touch the lives of young children and their families.

Key components of Nebraska's *Early Learning Connection*:

- * An array of focused workshops and communities of learners – see the searchable early childhood registry's statewide [training calendar](#)
- * Nebraska's [Core Competencies](#) for Early Childhood Professionals and associated planning tools
 - [Self-assessment](#)
 - [Professional Development Plan](#)
 - [Professional Development Record](#)
- * [Early Learning Guidelines](#)
- * [Training for Early Childhood Coaches](#)
- * Initiatives promoting [inclusive practices](#)
- * [Results Matter](#) Training for Curriculum/Assessment/Program Quality
- * [Program quality measures](#) by trained observers: Environment Rating Scales (ERS); CLASS
- * [Supports for early childhood program accreditation processes](#)
- * [Early Learning Connection for Quality Portfolio](#)
- * Resources about [Health/Safety/Nutrition](#) standards
- * [Nature and young children](#) projects
- * [FRIENDS](#) – professional development, leadership development, and coaching to promote social-emotional competence and addressing challenging behaviors the Teaching Pyramid, beginning with a self-assessment of program practices.
- * [Child Development Associate \(CDA\) Scholarship](#) assistance
- * [Career advising](#); connections to [T.E.A.C.H.® scholarships](#)
- * Free-loan access to large [multi-media collection](#)
- * [Telephone consultation](#) for parents seeking child care
- * [Telephone consultation](#) regarding a wide range of early childhood topics
- * [Technical assistance](#) regarding state and national early childhood program standards (Licensing, Rule 11, Head Start, etc.)
- * A practitioner registry and a program registry – individual transcripts available (in development)